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25 January 1963

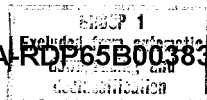
MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: DCI Briefing of CIA Subcommittee of House Appropriations  
Committee - 24 January 1963

1. The Director, accompanied by John S. Warner, met with the CIA Subcommittee of House Appropriations Committee for somewhat over an hour, beginning at 5:00 P.M., on Thursday, 24 January 1963. Present for the Subcommittee were:

Clarence Cannon  
George H. Mahon  
Harry R. Sheppard  
Gerald R. Ford

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justification. He pointed out further that on 10 August he again brought this subject up with the Secretaries of Defense and State and the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff explaining that while he had no evidence he believed it was possible that we would be confronted with the presence of missiles in Cuba with a justification based on [REDACTED]

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3. Mr. McCone then turned to the current military situation in Cuba reading Senator Keating's current statement on this subject and then briefing the Subcommittee in considerable detail based on the briefing papers, copies of which are attached. Mr. McCone clearly pointed out the presence of the four mobile armored units and the 24 SAM sites which are manned by Soviet personnel. He emphasized that the build-up in radar includes some of the most advanced units which have not heretofore been deployed outside the Soviet Union and that all of this radar is manned by Soviet personnel.

4. Mr. Sheppard queried our sources of information on Cuba and the Director stated the best, of course, is the U-2 photographic coverage [REDACTED]

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5. Mr. McCone emphasized again that he was greatly concerned with the Soviet presence in Cuba. He asked the rhetorical question of why the Soviets have 17,000 troops and 24 SAM sites in Cuba, adding that they have a most sophisticated communications system linking the island directly with Moscow with equipment heretofore found only in the Soviet Union. He pointed out that the SAMs had the capability to shoot down a U-2 and could make such a decision or give an ultimatum to the U.S. On the other hand, others think the Soviets will move out gradually saving such face as they can. He pointed out that since the SA-2 sites are very vulnerable, clearly they are not there for the purpose of defending the island against an American attack but are there to give the Soviets the capability to hide some activity. He mentioned the decision in October to overfly the most advanced SAM sites to see if they were operational and it was this mission that picked up the most advanced MRBM sites, thus confirming that the purpose of these SAMs were to protect MRBM installations.

6. Mr. Ford said he understood the camouflage efforts were very good, and Mr. McCone agreed, saying, however, that he did not believe it would have been sufficiently successful to have prevented our detecting the presence of missiles but on the other hand the evidence then would not have been convincing enough to establish the presence in the minds of our allies and other countries.

7. On the question of whether there are missiles there today, the DCI stated we did not believe so but in the absence of a penetrating on-site inspection one cannot prove a negative. He pointed out that we had seen 42 missiles move out whereas we had only counted 33 and our estimate had been that there were 48 there. Mr. McCone pointed out that he would not want a UN on-site inspection group because this would endanger overflights and would bring into the question the no-invasion pledge and in the first instance he would have no faith in a UN inspection team.

8. Mr. Ford asked why Castro was letting the citizens out. It was pointed out that apparently it is his policy to permit any Cubans who wish to come out to do so since he feels he is better off if they are dissatisfied. There is one estimate that there are at least 30,000 now waiting who wish to get out. There was some discussion of the division of elements in the Cuban hierarchy with Mr. McCone indicating that the doctor he had mentioned before in the prisoner exchange negotiations is still wielding considerable influence. He speculated that but for his presence the exchange would not have been made. The DCI mentioned that Donovan is going to Havana this coming Saturday to discuss with Castro the release of the 23 Americans. The DCI stated it was very important that these come out [REDACTED]

9. Mr. Cannon asked what effect the situation would have on the CIA budget. The Director stated that the basic budget would be about the same although this had been difficult, but that for several special projects we would be requesting additional funds.

10. Mr. Mahon touched on Robert Kennedy's statement on the Bay of Pigs matter, and the Director indicated that opinions varied on this but that it was his impression that there was no promise of U. S. air support and that subsequent B-26 missions were stood down. There appeared to be general agreement that there was no purpose in delving in this and that no good would come out of it.

11. The question was then raised of the acquisition of property to protect the security of the headquarters installation at Langley. The attached map and photographs were exhibited and the problem was

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explained. Mr. Sheppard inquired whether we were certain that the proposed acquisitions were sufficient. It was indicated that a thorough technical survey had been accomplished and the topography of the land was such that we believed the proposed acquisitions would be adequate. It was pointed out that the total property to be acquired was about 29 acres and would cost between \$400,000 and \$500,000. It was also pointed out that no authorization legislation or requests for additional funds were involved. The Subcommittee seemed well disposed toward our proposed action, and the Chairman stated he would advise us of the Subcommittee's views within a few days.

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JOHN S. WARNER  
Legislative Counsel

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